IN THE DRAWINGS

No objection to the drawings was indicated by the Examiner. Unless an indication is

provided by the Office to the contrary, Applicants assume the drawings to be acceptable.

3

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 remain pending in this application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9-15, 19-22, and 24-26, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,406,623 *(Rovik)*. Claims 3, 6-8, 16-18, 23 and 27-30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As noted in the background of the patent application, conventional systems typically perform ring-trip detection based on comparing the calculated power of the received signal to a threshold value. *See,* page 3 of the patent application. However, as also noted in the patent application, the method by which the conventional systems calculate the power of the received signal is based on some pre-determined, extrapolated values (*e.g.,* a period of 44 milliseconds for ring-trip detection, for instance). *Id.* Thus, for example, regardless of whether a 20 Hz ringing signal or a 25 Hz ringing signal is employed by a line card, the line card utilizes a pre-defined period of 44 milliseconds for the purposes of calculating the power of the received signal. In this manner, the conventional systems use a pre-defined period based on the frequency of the transmitted signal rather than calculating a period of the <u>received signal</u>. Accordingly, these conventional systems at least do not determine a period of the AC component <u>based on the received signal</u>. Instead, as noted, the conventional systems use a pre-defined, extrapolated value to calculate a power of a received signal. One way of determining the period of the received signal in accordance with the present invention is to use a zero crossing method, as noted in claim 4. The patent application explains that the use of these predefined, extrapolated values (or

11

compromising integration times) in conventional systems can result, for example, in at least 10% false detections. *See* page 4 of the patent application. Similarly, conventional systems at least do not determine <u>a value proportional to a power of the AC component of the received signal</u> over at least a portion of a period of the AC component.

Claim 1, among other things, calls for receiving at least a portion of the transmitted signal from the subscriber line, and further calls for determining at least a portion of a period of the AC component <u>based on the received signal</u> [from the subscriber line]. And, claim 5, among other things, calls for determining a value proportional to a power of the AC component <u>of the received signal</u> over at least a portion of the period of the AC component. Claims 1 and 5 further call for performing an act (*e.g.,* ring-trip detection or AC fault detection) of a line card in response to determining the above mentioned value.

Rovik is directed to a method and apparatus for ringing telephone stations. The Examiner asserts that text at col. 5, line 13 through col. 7, line 63 of *Rovik* teaches features of claims 1 and 5. *See,* pages 2-3 of the Office Action. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. As noted, claim 1 calls for determining at least a portion of a period of the AC component <u>based on the signal received from the subscriber line</u>. This feature is not taught or suggested in *Rovik*. *Rovik* discloses generating a non-sinusoidal ringing current waveform and transmitting it on line 301. *Rovik*, col. 5, lines 15-17. *Rovik* also describes comparing one 50-millisecond period of this generated waveform to one 50-millisecond period of a locally generated sinusoidal current waveform. *Id.* at col. 5, lines 17-20. However, this comparison is made of the ringing signal that is generated by the generator 103, and not of any signal received from the subscriber line. As explained repeatedly in *Rovik*, the non-sinusoidal ringing current waveform is utilized to

12

determine "connect intervals". See *Rovik*, 1:28-46; 2:60-66; see also Abstract. Thus, nowhere in *Rovik* is there a disclosure or suggestion of determining a period of the AC component based on the received signal from the subscriber line. For at least this reason, claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Similarly, claim 5 is allowable over *Rovik*, which at least does not disclose or suggest determining a value proportional to a power of the AC component of the received signal over at least a portion of the period of the AC component. First, Rovik does not describe or suggest determining a value proportional to a power of the AC component. Second, it also does not describe or suggest determining the power of the AC component that is received from the subscriber line. For at least these reasons, claim 5 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Additionally, the other pending claims are also allowable for this reason to the extent they call for one of these claimed features discussed above.

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Houston, Texas telephone number (713) 934-4064 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

13

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAMS, MORGAN & AMERSON, P.C.
CUSTOMER NO. 23720

Date: 1/16/06

By: _____
Ruben S. Bains, Reg. No. 46,532
10333 Richmond, Suite 1100
Houston, Texas 77042
(713) 934-4064
(713) 934-7011 (facsimile)
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

14